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STATE OF ARIZONA

DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

In the Matter of) Docket No. 6877) RALPH D. BREDAHL,) ORDER

Respondent.

10L 27 19E

On July 18, 1989, a hearing was held at the Arizona Department of Insurance, 3030 North Third Street, Suite 1100, Phoenix, Arizona. The Arizona Department of Insurance was represented by Charles R. Cohen, Esq., Assistant Attorney General. Respondent was not present either in person or through counsel.

Based upon the testimony and evidence presented at the hearing, the Director of Insurance makes the following findings of fact and conclusions of law and enters the following order:

- 1. Notice of the hearing was mailed to Respondent at his address of last record, as well as to other addresses where the Department believed Respondent may be located.
- 2. Respondent is, and was at all material times, licensed as an insurance agent by the State of Arizona.
- 3. On or about October 26, 1987, while acting as an agent for American Travellers Life Insurance Company ("American Travellers"), in order to induce Ben and Lillie Klusmeier ("the Klusmeiers") to apply for nursing home insurance, Respondent falsely represented to the Klusmeiers that \$1,719.20 would provide such insurance for both of them.
- 4. In truth, said sum was only sufficient to so insure one of them.

5. On the same date, Respondent received a \$1,719.20 check payable to American Travellers, and an application for nursing home insurance, from the Klusmeiers.

- 6. Respondent failed to forward the premium payment and application received from the Klusmeiers to American Travellers, and instead knowingly and willfully misappropriated and converted said payment to his own use.
- 7. Respondent took the check from the Klusmeiers to the United Bank of Arizona. The United Bank of Arizona issued a cashier's check to Respondent, made payable to the order of American Travellers. Respondent endorsed the cashier's check, and obtained cash from Pima Savings and Loan Association ("Pima Savings").
- 8. The Klusmeiers never received the subject nursing home insurance, and American Travellers has refunded \$1,719.20 to the Klusmeiers.
- 9. Pima Savings subsequently paid \$1,719.20 to American Travellers as restitution.
- 10. Respondent repeatedly failed to respond to the Department's inquiries concerning the Klusmeier's transaction, and failed to appear at the Department as so ordered.
- 11. On or about October 24, 1987, while acting as an agent for Union Bankers Insurance Company ("Union Bankers"), Respondent received a \$339.20 check payable to Union Bankers, and a completed application for a health insurance policy, from Robert Fuller ("Fuller"). Accordingly, Respondent forwarded said check and application to Union Bankers.

12. On or about December 15, 1987, Union Bankers notified Respondent that Union Bankers was unable to accept Fuller's application. Union Bankers enclosed a \$339.20 refund check to Respondent made payable to Robert L. Fuller, and instructed Respondent to forward said check to Fuller immediately.

- 13. Respondent failed to forward said refund check to Fuller, but instead knowingly and willfully misappropriated and converted it to his own use.
- 14. On or about February 1, 1988, after Fuller complained to Union Bankers, Respondent sent a check to Fuller in the amount of \$339.20 drawn on Respondent's personal account. On or about February 10 and 18, 1988, said check was dishonored due to insufficient funds.
- 15. Subsequently, Union Bankers mailed another refund check in the amount of \$339.20, this time directly to Fuller.
- 16. Respondent repeatedly failed to respond to the Department's inquiries concerning the herein-alleged matter, and failed to appear at the Department as ordered.
- 17. Respondent's above-alleged conduct constitutes willful violations of, and willful noncompliance with, the provisions of A.R.S. Title 20 and lawful orders of the Director, in violation of A.R.S. §20-316(A)(2).
- 18. Respondent's above-alleged conduct constitutes misappropriation, conversion or illegal withholding of monies belonging to policyholders, insurers, beneficiaries or others, in violation of A.R.S. §20-316(A)(4).

19. Respondent's above-alleged conduct constitutes a conduct of affairs under his license showing him to be incompetent or a source of injury and loss to the public or any insurer, in violation of A.R.S. §20-316(A)(7).

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that:

- 1. Any and all of Respondent's insurance licenses are revoked effective this date.
- 2. On or before August 1, 1989, Respondent shall make restitution to Pima Savings in the sum of \$1,719.20 and to Union Bankers in the sum of \$339.20.
- 3. On or before August 1, 1989, Respondent shall remit to the Arizona Department of Insurance civil penalties in the amount of \$10,000 for intentional violations of Title 20, A.R.S.
- 4. The aggrieved party may request a rehearing with respect to this Order by filing a written petition with the Hearing Officer within 30 days of the date of this Order, setting forth the basis for such relief pursuant to A.R.S. §20-1062(B) and A.A.C. R4-14-159.

DATED this and day of July, 1989.

SUSAN GALLINGER

Director of Insurance

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SARA M. BEGLEY

Chief Hearing Office

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COPY of the foregoing mailed/delivered
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